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WASHINGTON- Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28) today congratulated the Tonawanda General Motors plant, which announced this afternoon that \$33 million would be invested to further develop Ecotec four-cylinder engines used in Chevrolet fuel-efficient cars and cross-overs. The new investment will create or retain 100 jobs.

Today Slaughter called the announcement proof that Western New York has the best workers and evidence that taxpayers are receiving a return on their investment in GM.

“The Tonawanda Powertrain plant is clearly a vital piece of GM’s continued growth in the U.S.,” said Slaughter. “We all know that the best workforce in the world is in Western New York and today GM proved that they’ve seen it and know it to be true. There is a synergy here, between the Lexington Avenue plant in Rochester and the thriving plant in Tonawanda, more and more of the GM vehicles on the road today are the product of our Western New York neighbors and that’s quite a stamp of approval.”

Today’s announcement is part of a \$2 billion investment by GM that will create or retain 4,000 jobs in 17 facilities in 8 states.

GM Tonawanda Powertrain is one of the largest engine plants in the world. In 2010, GM announced that they would invest \$425 million to upgrade the Tonawanda facility to begin producing the next generation fuel-efficient, four-cylinder Ecotec engine which today received continued funding. Last April, GM announced the production of new V-6 and V-8 engines at the Tonawanda plant.

GM’s Rochester plant has also seen recent investments from GM. In April, they pledged \$100 million investment in their Lexington Avenue plant in Rochester and unveiled the production of energy efficient Spark Ignition Direct Injection technology.

In December 2008, Congress debated the auto bailout which was signed by President Obama later that month. As Slaughter debated the rule on the Auto Industry Financing and Restructuring Act she said, "Of all the industries that contribute to our economy, the automobile industry is one of the largest and yet it has been hit particularly hard during our recent economic downturn. The U.S. automobile industry is one of the largest sectors of our economy. Auto companies directly or indirectly support over four million American jobs, and provide nearly one million retirees with pensions and health care benefits. In Western New York alone the auto

industry supports over 12,000 workers, and 13,000 retirees.”

Slaughter voted in December 2008 to grant GM a \$6.7 billion bailout package. In April 2010, GM announced that they had paid back their federal loan with interest and 5 years ahead of schedule.

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